

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5167

FOR EUR/RPM, EUR/SOV
FROM USDEL CSCE

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE
SUBJ: BELGRADE CSCE: JULY 29

1. AT MORNING PLENARY JULY 29, SPANISH REP GAVE BRIEF STATUS REPORT ON WORK OF CONTACT GROUP, AND SAID THAT, IN VIEW OF INTEREST OF OTHER DELEGATIONS IN RESULTS OF CONTACT GROUP'S WORK, HE DID NOT CONSIDER IT POSSIBLE TO CONTINUE CONTACT GROUP BEYOND AFTERNOON OF JULY 29. HE SAID HE WOULD THEREFORE SUBMIT REPORT ON CONTACT GROUP'S WORK TO THE PLENARY AT THAT TIME. PLENARY THEN ADJOURNED TO ALLOW CONTACT GROUP TO MEET AND AGREED TO MEET AGAIN AT FIVE P.M. JULY 29.

2. CONTACT GROUP REVIEWED ALL REMAINING PROBLEM AREAS. APART FROM RESERVATIONS MADE ON AGREED TEXTS UNTIL ORGANIZATIONAL POINT 13 HAS BEEN SETTLED, ALL
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DIFFICULT REMAINING POINTS AT ISSUE HAVE NOW BEEN ISO-LATED IN POINT 13. STATUS OF THIS POINT REMAINS AS INDICATED IN REPORT OF CONTACT GROUP MEETING OF EVENING OF JULY 28 (SEPTEL). SINGLE EXCEPTION TO THIS IS THAT THE WORD "MEETING" IN SENTENCE (5) HAS BEEN PLACED IN BRACKETS BY SOVIETS, WITH ALTERNATIVE "PLENARY," AS SHOWN IN SENTENCE (4).

(NOTE: IN VIEW OF GENERAL OPPOSITION WHICH HAS BEEN EXPRESSED, ESPECIALLY BY OUR ALLIES, TO OUR SUGGESTION FOR INCLUDING "BY CONSENSUS" IN LAST SENTENCE OF POINT 13, AND IN CONSIDERATION OF "IF POSSIBLE" PHRASE- OLOGY IN OUR INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS POINT, WE DID NOT INSIST ON INSERTION OF THIS PHRASE.)

3. SOVIETS AND GDR TOOK EXTREMELY TOUGH POSITION, AND REFUSED TO COMPROMISE, EVEN ON RELATIVELY INNOCUOUS POINTS. AS A RESULT, WESTERN AND NEUTRAL DELS, INCLUDING USDEL, STUCK TO THEIR POSITIONS ON THE TWO KEY REMAINING ISSUES: DURATION OF WORK OF WORKING BODIES AND OVERALL DURATION OF MEETING. AT END OF MORNING, IT WAS CLEAR THAT NO AGREED TEXT WAS ACHIEVABLE, AND SPANISH AMBASSADOR INDICATED HE WOULD SUBMIT A PAPER TO PLENARY WHICH WOULD BE SPANISH PROPOSAL AND WOULD INDICATE WHAT SPANISH DEL CONSIDERED SUITABLE COMPROMISE SOLUTIONS TO ALL REMAINING ISSUES. CONTACT GROUP WAS THEN DISSOLVED (AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING) AND SPANISH AMBASSADOR WILL TABLE HIS PAPER IN PLENARY AT 5:00 P.M. MEETING JULY 29.

4. AFTER CLOSE OF CONTACT GROUP, SOVIET REP SOUGHT OUT US REP PRIVATELY AND SAID HE THOUGHT IT HAD BEEN A MISTAKE TO DISSOLVE CONTACT GROUP, AND TO HAVE SPANISH TABLE THEIR OWN PAPER. HE SAID SOVIETS WOULD BE OBLIGED

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TO CRITICIZE SPANISH PAPER IN PLENARY, WHEREAS THEY WOULD PREFER TO CONTINUE WORK IN INFORMAL FORMAT. SOVIET REP SAID HE THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE POSSIBILITIES FOR PROGRESS IN SUCH A SETTING. WE REPLIED THAT INFLEXIBLE SOVIET POSITIONS ON EVEN MINOR REMAINING ISSUES DID NOT HOLD OUT MUCH PROMISE FOR CONTINUED WORK IN CONTACT GROUP. WE ALSO SAID THAT SOVIETS COULD EASILY HAVE ASKED SPANISH TO HOLD UP ON PRESENTING THEIR OWN PAPER, OR TO CONTINUE CONTACT GROUP WORK. WE SAID THAT IF SOVIETS PREFERRED TO CONTINUE WORK IN AN INFORMAL SETTING, WE WERE ALSO PREPARED TO DO THAT, AND INDICATED A VARIETY OF POSSIBILITIES FOR ARRANGING THIS. SOVIET REP SAID SOVIET DEL WOULD CONSIDER THIS POSSIBILITY.

5. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT SOVIETS ARE NOW PLAYING THEIR ANTICIPATED ACE-IN-THE-HOLE: TIME PRESSURE ON WESTERN DELEGATIONS. BY TAKING A TOUGH STANCE TODAY, THEY HOPE TO DISCOURAGE WESTERN DELEGATES WHO WISH TO LEAVE BELGRADE ON SCHEDULE. THEIR DESIRE TO CONTINUE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS SUGGESTS THAT, WHEN THIS

PRESSURE IS AT ITS MAXIMUM, SOVIETS MAY OFFER SOME MINOR
NEW FLEXIBILITY, IN THE EXPECTATION THAT WESTERN AND
NEUTRAL DELS WILL ACCEPT IT AND AGREE TO A COMPROMISE
WHICH THE SOVIETS FIND SATISFACTORY. WE PLAN TO
CONTINUE TRYING TO SMOKE OUT INDICATIONS OF SOVIET
FLEXIBILITY, WHILE ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN GENERAL
WESTERN UNITY ON ISSUES OF OVERALL DURATION AND DURATION
OF WORKING GROUPS. END COMMENT.
SHERER

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